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## IN BRIEF

### (a) *Empheresula*: new name for *Parasula* Harrison 1975

I proposed (Harrison 1975, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 95(3): 53) *Parasula* as a new generic name for *Sula arvernensis* Milne-Edwards 1867, which is a fossil seabird of the Upper Oligocene. Dr. K. C. Parkes has drawn to my attention the fact that this name is preoccupied by *Parasula* Mathews 1913, proposed as a new generic name for *Sula dactylatra*. Milne-Edwards's specimen therefore requires another name and I propose *Empheresula* as a new generic name for the species. The name is formed from the Greek *empheres* (=resembling, like) and the existing generic name *Sula*.

17 September, 1975

C. J. O. Harrison

### (b) On the reported occurrence of the Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* in Tanzania

In view of the uncertainties attaching to some of the recent records of *Larus genei* and the Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* in East Africa (see, for example, C. H. Fry & J. Horne, *EAHNS Bull.* 1972: 138-139, the identification of an adult Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* observed on 28 March 1971 on the lakeshore in Lake Manyara National Park, Tanzania, by G. E. Watson (1971: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 91(6): 167) seems to need further consideration. As stated by the observer, it would constitute the first record of this species in East Africa (cf. G. C. Backhurst, P. L. Britton & C. F. Mann 1973: *Jl E. Africa nat. Hist. Soc. natn. Mus.* 140: 15). Since that date the occurrence of *ridibundus* has been confirmed by the observation of individuals in full or partial breeding dress (e.g. Fry *et al. loc. cit.*), but the occurrence of *genei* apparently remains problematical (cf. L. H. Brown: *EAHNS Bull.* 1973: 39-40).

After considering the evidence in support of Watson's sight record of *genei*, I feel that the inclusion of this species in the avifauna of Tanzania must still be regarded as doubtful for the following reasons. His description of the bird does not, in my view, exclude the possibility that it was in fact an example of *ridibundus*. In non-breeding plumage *ridibundus* can have the dark auricular spot very much reduced or even absent, so that the head looks white. Furthermore, the "proud erect bearing" and slimness of head and neck which were noted are somewhat unreliable criteria for separating *genei* from *ridibundus*, especially as they could only be compared with the Lesser Black-back *Larus fuscus* and Gull-billed Tern *Gelocbelidon nilotica* which were also present, both of which species in any case have a fundamentally different